

of policy which would cover these risks. Possibly there may be some association with which I am unacquainted which watches over the interests of nurses and which provides for these contingencies.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

W. M. CROWFOOT, M.A., F.R.C.S. Eng.

Beccles, August 3rd, 1908.

STUDY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE IN LIVERPOOL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to call your attention to the new course of instruction which will be given to the students of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine at the University of Liverpool after the beginning of next year. For a considerable period the teachers of the school have reported to the committee of the school that the time allotted for the course of instruction—namely, the academical term, or about ten weeks—was insufficient to give a complete curriculum on the subject, especially as, owing to the recent numerous great advances in our knowledge of tropical medicine, the subject had been very much enlarged of late. The school therefore has determined to add three weeks to the ten weeks' period of study, and the University has decided to give its Diploma in Tropical Medicine only to students who had undergone this course of 13 weeks. It is hoped that this change will result in still more complete instruction and a still more valuable diploma.

Owing, however, to the lengthened term it will not be possible to give more than two such courses every year, and the courses have therefore been fixed to begin on Jan. 6th and Sept. 15th every year, the corresponding examinations for the diploma being held 13 weeks later—that is to say, about April 5th and Dec. 13th respectively. In addition, however, to these two full courses the school has arranged to introduce an innovation in the form of a short course lasting only one month for practical instruction in tropical pathology and medical entomology, to be given from June 1st to 29th every year. It is hoped that this will be of the greatest utility to medical men returning on short leave to England, as it will enable them to acquire the practical technique of microscopic and similar work which has been much desired by many of them. After the four weeks' short course a class examination will be held and a certificate will excuse for the first four weeks of the full Lent and autumn courses.

The University and the school desire to have this information regarding the changes referred to spread as widely as possible for the use of medical men in the tropics, and I am therefore to request you, Sir, to be kind enough to give some notice of it in your valuable periodical.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Liverpool.

ALFRED L. JONES, Chairman.

EVIDENCE OF HOUSE PHYSICIANS AND HOUSE SURGEONS IN CASES OF ATTEMPTED SUICIDE, ETC.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My attention has recently been again attracted to the inconvenience at hospitals resulting from the necessary (or unnecessary) attendance of members of the resident staff at law courts to give evidence in cases of attempted suicide, &c. The following is an instance which has just occurred at the hospital to which I am attached. Twice recently a young woman has been brought to the hospital after attempting suicide by swallowing a little carbolic acid or lysol, and on each occasion she had to be admitted for a day or two. On both occasions also the house physician was afterwards obliged to give up his work at the hospital owing to a "subpœna" to attend at the law court. Yesterday he had to be away from 9.30 A.M. to 5.30 P.M., and as the case did not come off he had to leave the hospital again this morning at 9.30 A.M. The inconvenience caused to the working of one of the smaller hospitals by this kind of thing is obviously very great. In regard to the case of an insane woman who unsuccessfully attempted to murder her children and commit suicide one of the house surgeons had to attend at the Central Criminal Court on four days from about 10 A.M. to

4 or 5 P.M. before the case was heard. When at last this case came on it was finished in a few minutes without the house surgeon's *spoken* evidence being taken. Cannot anything be done to minimise the difficulties arising at small hospitals in this way?

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

F. PARKES WEBER, M.D. Cantab.

Harley-street, W., July 30th, 1908.

THE DAIRIES SUPERVISION ACT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As a veterinary surgeon and an officer of the Board of Health I cannot but note with satisfaction the increased attention which appears to be arising in England on the subject of dirty and tuberculous milk and I have thought that a short account of what is done in New South Wales to insure purity of milk-supply might be of interest.

In 1901 an Act entitled the Dairies Supervision Act was passed to consolidate various enactments regulating the production, manufacture, and distribution of milk and its products. The administration of the Act was charged to the local authorities—in towns the municipal councils thereof and in districts beyond those boundaries the senior police officer of the district—and their principal duties are laid down as being the keeping of a register of all persons engaged in the production of milk or cream or in the manufacture of butter or cheese for sale or supply for profit and conducting quarterly inspections of the premises, appliances, and cattle of all such persons. To the local authorities are granted powers of entry and of taking samples of milk and its products or of water from any water-supply used on the premises; to enforce cleanliness and good sanitary conditions on any premises; to close any polluted source of water-supply; and to refuse or to cancel the registration of anyone whose premises are insanitary or who refuses to carry out any order for the improvement of these conditions. Any dairyman, &c., trading without being registered is liable to a penalty not exceeding £20. Regulations have been issued under the Act defining the necessary conditions to be observed in building cowsheds, milk-rooms, &c.; for maintaining them in a sanitary condition; for the keeping of pigs; to prevent the use of milk from diseased animals and forbidding the employment of any person suffering from any infectious disease. In addition to the supervision of the local authority the Board of Health by means of a staff of veterinary and dairy inspectors maintain a direct control over both the registered premises and the manner in which the local authorities carry out their duties.

The improvement brought about by this Act in the whole of the great dairying industry and the milk traffic of the State has been very great within the last few years, and tuberculous cattle amongst dairy herds are becoming greatly lessened in numbers as more and more are slaughtered every year under the supervision of the veterinary inspectors. As a result of the demonstration given by those officers dairymen are beginning to grasp the fact that it is essentially the best policy for themselves to keep their herds free from this disease apart from any question of public health. Fines for any breach of the regulations can be inflicted not exceeding £20. Lacking though it is in many essentials, the Act has the great merit of being compulsory, and the adoption of its provisions is not left to the discretion of any body of self-inflated aldermen as is too often the case with measures of public health.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

MAX HENRY, M.R.C.V.S.,

Veterinary Inspector New South Wales Board of Health.
Candelo, New South Wales, June 13th, 1908.

THE TREATMENT OF MALIGNANT PUSTULE ("GRANO MALO").

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Bearing on an article that appeared in THE LANCET of Feb. 29th by Dr. J. S. Clarke and a note by Dr. John Cropper in THE LANCET of April 4th, the following data from the province of Buenos Aires may be interesting